MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!
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Hundreds of thousands of protesters say:

‘NO ICE! NO TRUMP!’

By Workers World New York bureau

The thousands of people marching downtown New York’s Fifth Avenue from 60th Street on Jan. 11 made up one of the 1,000 demonstrations held across the U.S. over last weekend. Like some of the anti-Trump actions in 2025, this one represented the overall opposition to the neofascist wannabe Emperor in the White House.

But it also responded in anger to the U.S. military aggression and piracy against Venezuela and especially to the ICE stormtrooper’s murder of Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis. Its main slogans were “No kings!” and “No war!” and especially: “No ICE!”

More reports from other cities at workers.org/2026/01/90130/. ☐

New York City, Jan. 11, 2026. WW PHOTO: ELLEN CATALINOTTO

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 2026.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Portland, Oregon, Jan. 8, 2026.

Houston, Jan. 8, 2026. WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

In this issue

- **Editorial**

Dr. King’s legacy: No borders in the workers’ struggle! 3

- **Around the World**

Trump’s plans to plunder Venezuela’s oil 4

- **Mundo Obrero**

No a la intervención en Irán y otros lugares 5

Articles at workers.org

- **In the U.S.**

Hundreds in Philly rally for Venezuela despite rain ..... LINK
Protest murder by ICE stormtrooper in Minneapolis!... LINK
U.S. protests: No blood for oil! Release Maduro now!... LINK
Coast to coast protests condemn ICE murderers ..... LINK

- **Around the World**

Bronx Anti-War Coalition statement on Iran ..... LINK
Greenland: Say its name – Kalaallit Nunaat ..... LINK
Venezuela: the limits of gunboat diplomacy ..... LINK
Iran: Destabilizing by strangulation..... LINK
Free Chantal Anicoche! U.S. out of the Philippines!..... LINK
WWP letter to U.N. special rapporteur regarding Cuba.. LINK
U.S. /Israeli plans to destabilize Africa and Asia..... LINK
A view of post-kidnapping Venezuela ..... LINK

- **Tear Down the Walls**

Prisoners of Kiev regime say: Free Maduro & Flores!.... LINK
Free Nicolás, Cilia, Mumia and all political prisoners!... LINK

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Dr. King's legacy: No borders in the workers' struggle!

January 19 will officially mark the 40th anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, a demand won through many years of grassroots struggle. If he were alive today, King would have celebrated his 97th birthday on Jan. 15. Dr. King dedicated his entire adult life to fighting for Civil Rights for African Americans, especially in the Deep South during the 1950s and 1960s.

"The greatest purveyor of violence in the world : my own government"
Fund People's Needs, Not
U.S./NATO WARS!
UNITED ANTI-WAR COALITION
unac.peace
PHOTO: UNAC

And during the last year of his life, King showed concrete support for striking Black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, while simultaneously calling for an end to the Vietnam war, a war he characterized as immoral. Linking the struggles against white supremacy, for workers' rights and against imperialist wars was uppermost on his political agenda of activism.

Nothing has fundamentally changed since Dr. King was murdered regarding the domination of imperialism, a system rooted in worldwide capitalism that still exists, although today it is in a much greater stage of decay. President Donald Trump symbolizes this decay with his blatant campaign to whitewash U.S. history by removing references to Black struggles and the legacy of enslavement.

Despite this decay, a rapid collapse of the system must not be taken for granted. We are witnessing a desperate and violent system that targets the rights of workers and oppressed peoples in the Global South and the Global North.

Just ask the people of Venezuela. They recently experienced the bombing of their country and having their elected President Nicolás Maduro and his spouse, Cilia Flores, illegally kidnapped by President Trump, the CIA and the Pentagon.

Or ask the people of Occupied Palestine, who are suffering from more than two years of a U.S.-backed genocide in Gaza and widespread terror in the West Bank perpetrated by the apartheid State of Israel.

Or ask the people of Iran who are battling violent anti-government protests cheered on by Trump, who seeks regime change in another oil rich country.

And there are numerous other U.S. threats against the sovereignty of other countries, such as Cuba, Colombia, Greenland, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria and ultimately China.

Imperialism at home

These U.S. imperialist attacks abroad are an extension of attacks inside the belly of the beast. Since Trump took over the reins of the presidency a year ago, he has expressed very clearly that he is no friend of the working class. He laid off tens of thousands of mainly Black federal workers and severely restricted food stamps and health care benefits, including gender-affirming care for transgender youth.

Trump declared a racist, xenophobic war on migrants that began last summer when he unleashed the ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement) stormtroopers in Los Angeles County. The main target of this war has been any migrant, documented or undocumented, perceived to originate from the Global South, especially Africa. Asia. the Caribbean or Latin America. Flaunting his racist bias, Trump has brazenly encouraged whites from South Africa and Scandinavian countries to migrate to the U.S.

And while the blatant murder of Renee Nicole Good — a 37-year-old, white, pro-migrant activist — by an ICE agent in Minneapolis has understandably garnered country-wide and international attention, there have been an untold number of migrants illegally and inhumanely detained, brutally attacked and killed by ICE since Trump took office. Non-migrants such as Keith Porter — a young Black man in Los Angeles who was killed by an off-duty ICE agent this past New Year's Eve — are targeted. Two Venezuelan migrants, labeled as drug dealers without evidence, were shot and wounded in Portland, Oregon, by ICE on the day after Good lost her life.

When Dr. King led his first antiwar march in Chicago in March 1967, he stated, "The bombs in Vietnam explode at home — they destroy the dream and possibility for a decent America." This quote, while not put in revolutionary class terms, still made the following important point: There are two fronts to the same ruling-class war against workers — here and abroad. And this connection must continue to guide the global anti-imperialist movement today. ☐

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Trump's plans to plunder Venezuela's oil

By Betsey Piette

Within 24 hours of the outrageous Jan. 3 U.S. attack on Venezuela — with the kidnapping of its socialist leaders President Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores on phony drug smuggling charges — President Donald Trump blurted out the truth. Speaking to reporters on Air Force One, Trump boasted: "We need total access to the oil and to other things in their country. We're gonna run everything."

It was never about drugs.

As in many U.S. wars, control over oil resources of sovereign countries is the goal. The holes in Trump's claims about the U.S. "owning Venezuela's resources" are big enough to sail an oil tanker through.

Estimated at 300 billion barrels, Venezuela's oil reserves are among the world's biggest.

Trump falsely claimed Venezuela "stole" oil and land from the U.S. when it nationalized its oil industry in 1976. But U.S. oil companies never owned oil or land in Venezuela, nor were they kicked out of the country.

Right-wing Venezuelan dictator Juan Vicente Gómez, who ruled from 1908 until 1935, let foreign oil companies Gulf, Royal Dutch Shell and Standard Oil control 98% of the Venezuela market. Later Venezuelan leaders took steps to assert their country's control over the oil industry from 1943 to 1974.

President Carlos Andrés Pérez, a social democrat, signed a law in August 1975 giving Venezuelan state oil company Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. control over the exploration, production, refining and export of oil. Venezuelan lawmakers continued this push through 1998. (venezuelanalysis.com, 2003)

Because Venezuela continued to provide relatively cheap oil, initially the nationalization wasn't seriously contested. Oil companies, including Gulf Oil (acquired by Chevron in 1984), ExxonMobil and Shell claimed losses of $5 billion in assets due to the nationalization, but they were each compensated $1 billion by Venezuela, plus there were no mechanisms for them to seek more.

In 2007, socialist President Hugo Chávez called for the nationalization of the natural gas industry, with plans to redistribute oil wealth to benefit poverty-stricken communities.

Several companies, including Chevron and Spanish-owned Repsol, remained in Venezuela under new contract terms. However, ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips sought $40 billion in compensation through arbitration. The World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes awarded ExxonMobil $1.6 billion in 2014 and ConocoPhillips $8.7 billion in 2019.

Struggling under the impact of U.S. sanctions, Venezuela wasn't able to pay these exorbitant amounts. Its oil exports, once 3 million to 4 million barrels a day, fell to 900,000 barrels, with most exported to China. (Washington Post, Nov. 1, 2025)

Trump's gathering of oil industry execs

While Trump received millions of dollars in campaign contributions from energy companies for his last election, some oil industry executives are reluctant to assume the estimated $100 billion in investments needed to take over Venezuela's oil industry.

Trump staged a highly publicized meeting of oil executives on Jan. 9 to hash out details of a U.S. takeover. But several of the executives were skeptical about selling the idea to their investors. At the White House meeting, ExxonMobil CEO Darren Woods stated: "We've had our assets seized there twice, and so you can imagine re-entering a third time would require some pretty significant changes. Today it's uninvestable." (nytimes.com, Jan. 10)

Trump tried to sweeten the deal by suggesting that U.S. taxpayers could reimburse energy companies for repairing Venezuelan infrastructure for extracting and shipping oil: "A tremendous amount of money will have to be spent, and the oil companies will spend it, and then they'll get reimbursed by us or through revenue." (The Guardian, Jan. 6)

Trump can promise all he wants, but the pro-socialist Bolivarian government remains in place, despite the U.S. kidnapping of its key leaders. Massive civilian militias have been established, and there is heightened awareness of the danger of another U.S. attack.

Caricature of Donald Trump drinking from a Venezuelan oil barrel, at demonstration against the kidnapping of President Maduro, outside the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Jan. 4, 2026.

A renewed dominance by U.S. oil companies would require U.S. boots on the ground. Trump admits as much by suggesting that the government could provide protection and security — essentially committing U.S. military troops to do the bidding of the oil industry.

The fact that Russian and Chinese firms have partnered with Venezuela since U.S. companies left complicates the reestablishment of U.S. companies.

During Trump's staged event he suggested to ConocoPhillips chief executive Ryan Lance that previously claimed losses by the company could be written off on the company's taxes. Lance responded, "It's already been written off."

If previous losses were already written off, this negates any claims companies may have to Venezuela's oil. Because of sanctions, much of Venezuela's oil is exported to China, India and other markets. Oil has not been flowing to the U.S. refineries, because U.S. sanctions prohibit it.

Lifting the deadly sanctions could resolve the crisis of oil production and exports in Venezuela. ❐

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No a la intervención estadounidense en Irán y otros lugares

MUNDO OBRERO
editorial

Si alguna vez hubo la más mínima duda de que Donald Trump busca el cambio de régimen en cualquier gobierno al que se opone, el secuestro ilegal e ilícito del presidente de Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, y su esposa, Cilia Adela Flores, el 3 de enero debería haber disipado esas dudas para siempre. No importa si un país forma parte de América Latina, como Venezuela, o si se encuentra al otro lado del mundo, en Asia occidental. Cualquier gobierno que se niegue a ser intimidado para que renuncie a su soberanía puede convertirse en blanco de la Doctrina Monroe moderna de Trump.

Apenas unos días antes del bombardeo estadounidense de Venezuela, la Casa Blanca alentaba descaradamente las protestas antigubernamentales que tenían lugar en Irán, un país también rico en reservas de petróleo. Trump declaró que Estados Unidos saldría en defensa de los manifestantes «pacíficos» de Irán. El Gobierno iraní ha reconocido las reivindicaciones de las protestas, al tiempo que ha enviado una firme advertencia de que Estados Unidos no tiene derecho, según el derecho internacional, a intervenir en los asuntos internos de su país.

La verdad es que Estados Unidos hain-tentado subvertir la economía iraní con sanciones, que Washington impuso desde la revolución iraní de 1979 con el falso pretexto de que Irán patrocinaba el «terrorismo de Estado». En realidad, el pueblo iraní había derrocado al odiado títere del Sha Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, respaldado por Estados Unidos, durante su revolución.

La organización SanctionsKill describe las sanciones como «un arma de guerra económica que provoca escasez crónica de productos básicos, desequilibrios económicos, hiperinflación caótica, hambrunas artificiales, enfermedades y pobreza. En todos los países, los más pobres y débiles —bebés, niños, enfermos crónicos y ancianos— sufren las peores consecuencias de las sanciones. Las sanciones impuestas por Estados Unidos violan el derecho internacional y son una herramienta para el cambio de régimen». (sanctionskill.org)

Desde que Trump volvió a ocupar la Casa Blanca hace más de un año, estas sanciones no solo se han mantenido, sino que se han maximizado, especialmente en las áreas de producción de petróleo, exportaciones, inversión del sector privado y ventas en el mercado capitalista mundial. Trump busca derrocar al actual Gobierno iraní en el frente económico con una alta inflación, apuntando a su programa de energía nuclear y castigando a Irán por su inquebrantable solidaridad con la resistencia palestina.

Lo que el régimen de Trump ha hecho a Venezuela y está intentando hacer a Irán debería ser una llamada de atención para el resto del mundo, especialmente para el Sur Global. Cualquier país cuyo gobierno busque cualquier medida de desarrollo económico independiente o soberanía, especialmente para controlar sus recursos, podría encontrar a su pueblo atrapado en la mira de un sistema imperialista desesperado y moribundo, donde la violencia o la amenaza de ella es su único recurso.

Pregúntele al pueblo de Siria, Libia, Irak, etc., que han sufrido violentos cambios de régimen por parte del imperialismo estadounidense y occidental.

Solo los pueblos de Venezuela, Irán y otros países en desarrollo tienen derecho a determinar su destino y a elegir a sus líderes, sin ningún tipo de coacción o interferencia por parte de Trump, la CIA y el Pentágono. Y es tarea de los trabajadores y oprimidos del Norte Global mostrar solidaridad antiimperialista con nuestros hermanos de clase en la lucha por liberarse del yugo imperialista. □

Filadelfia, 26 de junio de 2019. MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE

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